

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending.

Claims 1-42 stand rejected.

Double Patenting Rejection

Applicant has hereby filed a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) with respect to U.S Patent No. 6,002,689, traversing the double patenting rejection.

Rejection Based Upon 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by White et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,069,890. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Amended claim 1 recites a signaling converter configured to convert signaling for a call between a first format and a second format and a signaling processor coupled to the signaling converter and configured to receive and process the signaling in the second format to select a service. White does not disclose a signaling converter coupled to a signaling processor whereby the signaling converter converts signaling from a first format to a second format for the signaling processor to select a service.

White does disclose a gateway router 104 that converts communications from a PSTN format to an IP format. However, the gateway router 104 does not convert the signaling associated with the communications for a signaling processor to select a service. The service has already been determined to be Internet telephony prior to the junction where the gateway router 104 converts the communications from a first format to a second format. What signaling the gateway router 104 does convert is converted for transmitting the communications over the Internet, and not for a signal processor to select a service.

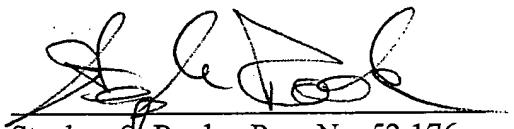
Additionally, the manner in which the service is determined does not anticipate claim 1. White selects Internet telephony service at the initiation of an Internet call when a caller goes off-hook and dials a DTMF code such as *82. The LECs of White 102, 114 include an originating central office 50 and a remote central office 52 that conduct signal processing to setup and take down calls (White, Fig. 2). The LECs 102, 114 process signaling such as the *82 to select Internet telephony. The dialed code signals the originating central office that an Internet telephony call to the voicemail system is to be established. The central office recognizes the DTMF code and connects the call to the gateway router 104 for Internet telephony (White, col. 9, lines 10-30). White does not teach converting the signaling with a converter for a signal processor to select a service.

For the above reasons, White does not anticipate independent claim 1. Independent claim 22 contains similar limitations as claim 1 and is therefore allowable. Dependent claims 2-21, and 23-42 each recite further limitations that render them separately patentable over the prior art. However, because the limitations of base claims 1 and 22 are sufficient to distinguish White, the rejections based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) are traversed.

CONCLUSION

The claims in their present form are allowable over the art of record. Applicant therefore solicits their allowance. This response is being filed after the shortened statutory period. Therefore, included with this response is a petition for extension of time and the appropriate fees.

Respectfully submitted,


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Marked Up Version of the Claims

1. (AMENDED) A call interface comprising:

[a signaling converter configured to convert signaling for a call between a first signaling format and a second signaling format;]

an interworking unit configured to receive signaling and communications for a call, convert the communications for the call between a first communication format and a second communication format[;], and transfer the signaling to a signaling converter.

the signaling converter configured to receive the signaling for the call and convert the signaling between a first signaling format and a second signaling format;

[a] the signaling processor coupled to the signaling converter and the interworking unit and configured to receive the signaling in the second signaling format and process the signaling to select a service for the call; and

a service platform coupled to the interworking unit and the signaling processor and configured to provide the selected service for the call.

22. (AMENDED) A method of operating a call interface, the method comprising:

[converting signaling for the call between a first signaling format and a second signaling format;]

in an interworking unit, receiving signaling and communications for a call, converting the communications [for the call] between a first communication format and a second communication format[;], and transferring the signaling to a signaling converter;

in the signaling converter, converting the signaling for the call between a first signaling format and a second signaling format;

in the signaling processor, receiving the signaling in the second signaling format from the signaling converter and processing the signaling to select a service for the call; and

in the service platform, providing the selected service for the call.